

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
HA-05 SSM-03 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 /079 W

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O R 111519Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9253
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NY

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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MOPS IS LE
SUBJ: IDF RATALIATION RECEIVES GENERAL PUBLIC APPROVAL

1. REACTION TO THE RENEWED CONFLAGRATION ON THE LEBANESE
BORDER HAS BEEN ONE OF SOBER SUPPORT FOR THE IDF'S
BOMBING STRIKES, COMBINED WITH A GRIMNESS DEVOID OF ANY
SATISFACTION OF WHAT IS SEEN AS NECESSARY RETALIATION.
MOST NEWSPAPERS AGREE WITH DAVAR'S ASSERTION THAT TARGETS
WERE CAREFULLY CHOSEN, WHILE ALLOWING THAT CIVILIANS
MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED, AND WITH HAARETZ'S CLAIM THAT IF
THE AIR STRIKES DENOTE ESCALATION, RESPONSIBILITY RESTS
WITH THE TERRORISTS. ONLY AL HAMISHMAR HINTS THAT THE
REACTION MAY HAVE BEEN EXCESSIVE.

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2. HAARETZ SEES THE ROCKET ATTACK ON NAHARIYAH
AS A PLO ATTEMPT TO REMIND THE PARTIES THAT THEY
CAN STILL DISRUPT PROGRESS TOWARD GENEVA AND
THAT THE PLO CANNOT BE LEFT OUTSIDE THE PEACE TALKS.
WRITING IN DAVAR, ESHED ALSO INQUIRES INTO THE REASON
BEHIND THE ERUPTION OF VIOLENCE ON THE BORDER. HE
PRESUMES THAT THE SYRIANS GAVE THEIR TACIT APPROVAL

AND SUGGESTS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE KATYUSHA ROCKETS AND THE FORTHCOMING TUNIS CONFERENCE OF ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS. ESHED THEORIZES THAT BY HEATING UP THE ATMOSPHERE, ASSAD AND ARAFAT MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO FORESTALL EGYPT'S GETTING TOO FAR OUT IN FRONT OR EVEN BETRAYING THE CAUSE.

3. ISRAELIS WERE QUICK TO READ IN THE US RESPONSE THE ABSENCE OF ANY CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL'S AIR STRIKES IN CONTRAST TO THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE BOMBARDMENT OF NAHARIYAH. THEY WERE RELIEVED (EVEN SOMEWHAT SURPRISED) AND HIGHLY PLEASED BY THE PRESIDENTS REFUSAL TO CRITICIZE ISRAEL AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE, A FACT THAT WAS NOTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON DOWN. AT THE SAME TIME, ISRAELI COMMENTATORS POINT TO US RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE LEBANESE SITUATION. THE PRESS NOTES THAT THE US WAS THE PRIME MOVER BEHIND THE CEASEFIRE AND THAT ISRAELI TROOPS WITHDREW FROM LEBANON IN RESPONSE TO A US "ULTIMATUM."

4. COMMENT: THERE IS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF "I TOLD YOU SO" IN THE AIR HERE. THE ATTACK ON NAHARIYAH ONLY SERVED TO REINFORCE THE GENERAL ISRAELI DETERMINATION NOT TO DEAL WITH THE PLO -- EVEN IF IT CHANGED ITS CHARTER. IT IS ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT NO ONE IS CLAIMING THAT AN ALIGNMENT GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REACTED DIFFERENTLY TO THE ROCKET ATTACKS. LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 11-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation History:
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